

**Orange County Animal Care Services** 

# Critter Chronicles



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## Adoption Partnerships: A special needs animal's best friend

A nimal Care Services (ACS) desires to find homes for as many animals as possible. While some animals are adopted almost immediately after they are available, others need additional efforts to place them in the right home. Special needs animals that require further treatment or training are transferred to rescue groups to provide even more homes to ACS animals. Rescues have come from all over Orange County and beyond to contribute to increased adoptions. Local veterinary groups have shown great willingness to accept injured or orphaned animals, nurse them back to health, and find them a permanent home. Through their dedicated work Animal Care Services has even developed a strong partnership with Orange County Juvenile Hall to involve teens in the fostering of puppies to give these animals a chance at life, while teaching the teens to be caring, responsible citizens.



Adoption partnerships have been able to help countless animals, like Bandit, find their forever homes. Bandit is an Australian shepherd and Rottweiler mix who arrived at ACS on November 24, 2006, and quickly won the hearts of the staff and volunteers. With his wining smile and wonderful

temperament, it seemed that Bandit would quickly find his forever home. However, after weeks of being the volunteer's Pet of the Week and appearing in multiple advertisements in local newspapers and on various websites, staff and volunteers struggled to find this sweet boy a home. Until one day, Bandit got his second chance. Through a partnership with Butte Humane Society in Chico, California, Bandit was transferred on February 5, 2007 to Butte in hopes of increasing his adoptability.

After a long awaited search, Bandit found his forever home on February 17, 2007 with a dog loving couple and their nine year old shepherd. Bandit now spends his days on two acres of land with his new family and playmate. Although his search for a home lasted a few months, the right home was worth the wait. Adoption victories such as this would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of ACS staff, volunteers, and partnerships with other humane organizations. By establishing bonds with over 170 organizations countywide and beyond, Animal Care Services has had the opportunity to provide more animals their second chance. For more information about Adoption Partnerships contact Tammy Osborn, Adoption Program Coordinator at (714) 935-6885.

Inside this issue:	
Adoption Partnerships	1
Wetlands and Wildlife	1-2
Foster Care Program	2
Adoptable Animals	3
Travel Tips for Pets	3
Upcoming Shelter & Mobile Events	4
Quarterly Success Story	4

We're Here for You: Animal Care Services: (714) 935-6848 After Hours Pick-up: (714) 935-7158 Visit Us on the Web: www.ocpetinfo.com

# Orange County's Wildlife Oasis

**Rescue** – Rehabilitate – Release. This is the goal of the dedicated employees and volunteers working at the Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center. They work tirelessly with thousands of sick, injured or orphaned animals each year with the sole purpose of returning the animals to the wild.

Orange County Animal Care Services (OCACS) delivers hundreds of animals to the Center each year knowing they are going to receive the best possible treatment and care. The Care Center is a vital partner in the pledge OCACS has made to being a Pro–Life Shelter.

Imagine having someone bring you a box of eight to ten cute fuzzy little wild mallard ducklings that need to be raised for six to eight weeks before they can be released. The ducklings will need to be fed multiple times daily, cleaned up after, kept warm and not imprinted during this lengthy process. Imprinting is when a young animal thinks the person caring for it is its mother. When an animal is imprinted, it is non releasable. If you think this would be challenging, multiply the number of ducklings by seven or eight hundred and you get an idea of what is done every year at the Care Center.

Story continued on page 2.



and Lisa Bircle treat an injured Black Legged Kittywake

### Orange County's Wildlife Oasis Continued...



Sadly many ducklings should not be brought in at all. Every year people find broods of ducklings, seemingly motherless, so they round them up and bring them to the Care Center. In most cases the mother was only away foraging for food, returning periodically to care for her offspring. Many young animals and birds are brought in that most likely had parents nearby. A poster in the Center reminds people – "Don't be a Bird Knapper."

If you find an injured animal and have any uncertainty about transporting it safely to the center, call your local animal control service or the care center. Remember, injured animals can deliver a very painful bite trying to protect themselves.

If you want to help at the Care Center, volunteer classes are given frequently. Supplies such as bleach, used towels, blankets, sheets, pillow cases or any other item on their wish list are always welcome, or even money. If you have any questions, their phone number is (714) 374 –5587 and their website is <a href="www.wwccoc.org">www.wwccoc.org</a>. The Care Center also has a nice assortment of items for sale that help raise money for animal food, medicine and building maintenance. The dedicated people at the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center need our help so they can continue to give injured wildlife a second chance.

# The Purrfect Program

Studies have shown that having a pet can, in many cases, reduce high blood pressure. So, it is not surprising that people currently in the Orange County Animal Care Services (OCACS) kitten fostering program say" yes" when we call and tell them we have kittens. We know firsthand about having a stressful day, then getting caught in the freeway grind, only to be laughing minutes after getting home and interacting with a litter of cute, playful kittens.



"Kitten Season" in Orange County runs from March thru August. Due

to our mild climate and the high number of cats not spayed or neutered, OCACS is inundated with hundreds of kittens yearly, the majority motherless. Unfortunately not all of the kittens are old enough to be spayed or neutered. Most of these kittens are placed in foster care for socialization and loving until they meet the size and age requirements. Assistance from the foster program volunteers is invaluable. They ensure OCACS can continue the commitment of Pro-Life and Pro-Adoption for all possible animals.

Kittens needing to be fostered are usually 4 to 7 weeks old and weigh less than 2 pounds. They are fostered until they weigh at least 2 pounds, usually when they are about 8 weeks old. The 2 pound re-

quirement ensures they will be big enough to be safely neutered or spayed.

What do the foster parents get out of this program? One of our great foster parents was having some extremely challenging family issues. We called and offered to take her foster kittens so she could focus on her family. She declined, saying that the kittens were "keeping her sane." When she was in tears or almost at her breaking point, a visit with the kittens always cheered her up and helped her refocus.

OCACS' foster program is administered by Katie Craddock, OCACS Volunteer Program Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact her by phone at (714) 935 - 6194 or go online to www.ocpetinfo.com to get additional information about fostering. If reducing your blood pressure while playing with a group of adorable kittens sounds good to you, fostering may be the Purrfect Program for you.



### Katie's Korner

Is your barking dog driving you and your neighbors crazy? If so try these simple tricks:

- Spend more time playing with your dog. Giving them more time to burn off their excess energy will help calm them down when you're not there.
- Keep a spray bottle filled with water handy to correct excessive barking with a "quiet" command and quick squirt of water.
- Provide interactive treat dispensing toys to entertain your pet for long periods of time.

## Adopt - a - Pet



Name: Roxy ID#: A0751289 Sex: Spayed, Female Age: 1 year Breed: Shepherd Mix I am a people pleaser and I love to give kisses!

Name: Peter
ID#: A0802221
Sex: Male
Age: 1 year
Breed: Shorthair Rabbit
I love to be held and I will
hop right into your heart!

Name: Kiara
ID#: A0806106
Sex: Spayed, Female
Age: 6 years
Breed: Domestic Longhair
I am a loving cat in need
of a family!



Name: Tilly
ID#: A0806396
Sex: Spayed, Female
Age: 5 years
Breed: Lab mix
I love treats and going for
long walks!

Name: Dora
ID#: A0807527
Sex: Female
Age: 3 years
Breed: French Lop
I am gentle girl in need of a
forever home!

Name: Heff
ID#: A0806745
Sex: Neutered, Male
Age: 9 months
Breed: Domestic Mediumhair
I am a young boy with
lots of energy!

Orange County Animal Care Services makes every effort to promote all of the wonderful animals we have available for adoption. At the time of publication, these animals were in need of lifelong homes. All adopted animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped prior to leaving the shelter. If you are interested in adopting a pet, please visit us online at <a href="www.ocpetinfo.com">www.ocpetinfo.com</a>, or simply come down to the shelter!

## Jet-set with your pet?

Summer is just around the corner, but before your family jet sets around the world, consider a few things to prepare your four-legged friend for your vacation. Whether you are planning on traveling with your pet or having them kenneled, plan ahead to make sure your pet will be taken care of during your trip. The first thing to take into account for your furry family member is where they will stay during your vacation. There are many options available for your pet: traveling with the family, staying with a friend, boarding at a kennel or cattery, or hiring the services of a pet-sitter. Here are a few things to take into account for each option:

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This pooch is ready to

be jet-set!

### Taking Fido or Fluffy with you:

-If you can't bear to leave your furry friend behind, call around or check online for pet friendly hotels. Be realistic about the amount of time you will be able to spend with your pet. If you are away from your pet over 50% of the day, it may be best to leave your pet at home.

-If you will be taking flight for your travel plans, carefully

consider how the trip will affect

your pet. Can your pet fit comfortably under your seat or will they be stowed away as cargo?

### Staying with a friend:

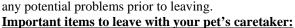
- To save money and have piece of mind, arrange with a friend to watch your pet during your vacation and then swap services during their trip.
- Make sure your pets have a positive interaction before you leave, provide enough food for your pet and discuss eating arrangements to ensure that your pet will not be snacking on anyone else's dinner.

### **Boarding at a Kennel or Cattery:**

- If you are unable to travel with your pet or make arrangements with a friend, a boarding facility may be an alternative. Choose a facility that requires immunizations so that your pet doesn't get sick from any of the other residents and ask for a tour to ensure the cleanliness of the facility.
- Inquire about the amount of time your pet will spend outdoors and the types of exercise areas available.

#### **Hiring the Services of a Pet-Sitter:**

- -If your pet requires one-on-one interaction and has difficulty leaving home, hiring a pet-sitter may be your best choice. Check their references to guarantee they are reliable and trustworthy.
- Leave clear instructions and all of your pet's supplies in an easily accessible location.
- Do a trial run for a day to identify any potential problems prior to leaving.



- A letter of authorization, recent photograph of the pet, the copy of the legal owner's identification card and the most recent vet record so that they can redeem your pet from the shelter if it is impounded or seek veterinary treatment if your pet becomes ill.
- The phone numbers and locations of your veterinarian and a nearby emergency clinic.
- Your personal contact information or hotel and flight information in the event of an emergency.

Although it may seem time-consuming to make these arrangements prior to your vacation, knowing your pet is safe and properly taken care of will give you peace of mind during your escape. For more information on Travel Tips contact Lindsey Sevigny, Public Education Officer at (714) 935-6301.



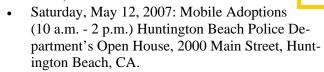
### Mobile Adoption & Shelter Events for March-May

A nimal Care Services is always looking for ways to promote adoptable animals and bring them into the public eye. One way that we do this is through our participation in local community events. Each week we prepare animals at our shelter to go out into the public and potentially find a new home. Mobile adoptions are a great way to promote animals, provide information to the public, and inform our local communities of the services we provide. Here is a list of the upcoming mobile events that ACS will be participating in:

- Sunday, March 11, 2007: Richard Nixon Library, Mobile Adoptions (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA.
- Saturday, March 17, 2007: Petland, Mobile Adoptions (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 18545 Brookhurst, Fountain Valley, CA.
- Saturday, March 24, 2007: PetSmart, Mobile Adoptions (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 1411 South Harbor, Fullerton, CA.
- Saturday, March 31, 2007: Independence Park, Mobile Adoptions (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 801 W. Valencia Ave., Fullerton, CA.

- Saturday, April 7, 2007: New Volunteer Orientation (10 a.m. -11 a.m.) 561 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868.
- Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 13-15, 2007: America's Family Pet Expo, Mobile Adoptions (10 a.m. - 6

p.m.) Orange County Fairgrounds Costa Mesa, CA.



Saturday, May 19, 2007: Pet Fair 2007 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) 561 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868.

ACS is always looking to participate in new events. If you have an upcoming community event that you would like us to be a part of, please send your information to JJ Johnson or Lindsey Sevigny, Public Education Officers, 561 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92868, or call them at (714) 935-6301.



Chris and Rachelle with their new family member "Gypsy" on February 18, 2007

## Celebrating Success

Orange County Animal Care Services takes great pride in promoting the successes we have in adopting our animals to lifelong homes. We often receive updates from visitors that tell us heart warming stories of how they were either reunited with their lost pet, or had found the perfect companion to take home. Here is a story regarding a kitten named Tiger, who is writing to his previous foster mom about his new family and forever home.



February 6, 2007

Dear Amanda (foster mommy),

I am doing great and I love my new home. I have lots of room to run around and hunt for my mice. Jacob and Paige (my brother and sister) are fun too. Paige likes to push me in a stroller and sometimes I actually let her do it. Jacob loves to hold me. I sleep under the sheets at the bottom of the bed. It scares Jennifer (my new mommy), but I like it there. It has been cold, so we have turned on the fire. I love to stretch out in front of it and sleep.

Here is a picture of me. I like to eat and I'm getting bigger each day. Jacob and Paige take good care of me. They help change my litter box, give me clean water and feed me. I just wanted to say that I miss you and thank you for taking good care of me and for giving me to Cory, Jennifer, Jacob and Paige. They love me a lot and spoil me too.

Love, Tiger